



WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

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LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

2019-2020 SESSION

MARRIAGE/FAMILY

AB 41/SB 49 – *Decriminalization of child prostitution.* (WFA opposes)

Despite intentions and motives of those authoring and co-sponsoring this bill Wisconsin Family Action believes this proposal is ill-advised because it takes a tool away from law enforcement who are trying to get minors engaged in prostitution off the streets, assumes all minors involved in this activity are being coerced and gives an advantage to the Johns and the pimps to recruit more minors into their nefarious work, including sex trafficking.

AB 71/SB 68 – *Possession of child pornography* (WFA supports)

This bill tightens up the definition of child pornography making it easier to bring charges against someone who is engaged in this activity.

AB 111/SB 107 – *Prohibiting so-called “conversion therapy” for minors* (WFA opposes)

This bill prohibits certain mental health workers from actually providing real hope and real help for minors dealing with unwanted same-sex attraction and/or gender confusion. It makes it clear that the only advice these mental health workers can give is that which affirms, normalizes and encourages minors to continue with these beliefs and behaviors. The bill trounces on religious freedom of mental health workers and on the rights of parents regarding counseling for their children.

AB201/SB 191 – *Creating a nonrefundable tax credit for adoption expenses* (WFA supports)

The intent of this bill is to encourage Wisconsin families to adopt children. This \$5,000 tax credit piggybacks on the federal adoption tax credit and helps parents offset some of the costs related to adoption, which today can be very expensive.

AB 248/no senate version yet – *Removing “personal conviction” exemption from vaccination requirements* (WFA opposes)

Wisconsin currently has three options for parents seeking to exempt their children from vaccinations: health, religious and personal conviction. This bill would remove “personal conviction,” which would make it harder for parents choosing to not vaccinate their children.

***EDUCATION* (subheading of Marriage/Family)**

AB 108/no senate version yet – *Requiring parental choice program schools and charter schools to provide instruction in American Indian history, culture, and tribal sovereignty.* (WFA opposes)

WFA does not support more requirements for voucher schools. We do not believe this curricular mandate does anything to increase the educational value in any given school. It simply takes away from time that could be

better spent. We believe most schools cover this topic already in the course of implementing their curriculum across the grades.

AB 129/SB 111 - *Allowing voucher schools to provide pupil instruction virtually* (WFA supports)

This bill levels the playing field with public schools by allowing voucher schools to offer direct pupil instruction virtually—to make up for missed time due to extreme weather closings and also as a part of the regular program of the school.

AB 149/SB 138 – *Funding character education in public schools* (WFA opposes)

Character education under this bill is not defined—and there is too much room for “character” to be stretched beyond its typical meaning and understanding. The bill authorizes DPI to award grants to schools to pay teachers to receive “professional development trainings in character education.”

LIFE

AB 128/SB 114 – *Creating a tax credit for parents who experience a stillbirth* (WFA supports)

This bill seeks to compensate parents who have had a stillbirth for some of the costs related to this heart-rending situation (up to \$2,000).

AB 179/SB 175 – *Born Alive bill* (WFA supports with one concern)

This bill requires any health care provider present at the time an abortion or attempted abortion results in a child born alive to exercise the same degree of professional skill, care and diligence to preserve the life and health of the child as a reasonably diligent and conscientious health care provider would render to any other child born alive. The bill makes intentionally causing the death of a child born alive as a result of an abortion or attempted abortion a felony with a penalty of life imprisonment. WFA’s concern is that the bill has an express exemption for a woman who intentionally kills her baby that has managed to survive an abortion or an attempted abortion.

AB 180/SB 174 – *Requiring that women taking RU-486 be told there is a reversal to the abortion-causing drug* (WFA supports)

This bill requires certain information regarding an abortion-inducing drug regimen to be given to a woman who is planning to have an abortion induced by this abortion-inducing drug regimen. This is primarily about RU-486. Essentially the bill requires that the woman be told that the first drug in the regimen may not result in an immediate abortion and that if she acts quickly, she can reverse the effects of the first drug and perhaps save her baby. This information would be added to the Woman’s Right to Know publication. The bill also requires that any place an abortion takes place, including a hospital, certain information must be collected and reported. The bill adds to what the law already requires abortionists to report.

AB 181/SB 199 – *Stopping taxpayer funded Medicaid payments from going to most abortion providers* (WFA supports)

This bill generally prohibits an entity that does abortions from receiving Medicaid payments.

AB 182/SB 173 – *Prohibiting abortions based on sex, race, nationality, ethnicity or disability* (WFA supports with one concern)

Our concern is that the bill has an exception related to disability. That exception deals with a situation where medical professionals determine an unborn baby has a disability that is deemed “fatal,” meaning the child is unlikely to survive outside the womb and the condition is not treatable. We believe this is an unnecessary exception.

AB 183/SB 187 - *Stopping taxpayer funded Medicaid payments from going to most abortion providers* (WFA supports)

This bill generally prohibits an entity that does abortions from receiving Medicaid payments.

LIBERTY

AB 185/SB 197 – *Changing how WI’s electoral votes are allocated* (WFA opposes)

This bill erodes the Electoral College. Instead of awarding WI’s 10 electoral votes to the presidential candidate who wins the popular vote in our state, those 10 votes would go to the presidential candidate who wins the national popular vote.

As of June 3, 2019

